



My College Fact Finder – User Guide

Deciding where to go to college is an exciting time in a student's life. There are many resources available to help in making this decision. The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) and the Education Advisory Board (EAB) are excited to contribute an additional, DC-specific resource, *My College Fact Finder*. *My College Fact Finder* provides critical DC postsecondary data directly to students and their families. This tool can be used during your college application process as well as once you have been accepted and are trying to make the most informed college choice.

In selecting a college or university, you should be thinking about the location of the school or program, student body size, and persistence and graduation rates. *My College Fact Finder* lets you access these pieces of vital information easily and quickly, all on one website.

Finally, *My College Fact Finder* lets you discover how other DC students did at the college or university you are considering. Are DC students graduating from that college or university? What are their ACT and SAT score ranges? If they are transferring to another college or university, where they are going?

How to navigate each section of *My College Fact Finder*:

This tool collects information from federally reported data sets as well as the State Longitudinal Education Database (SLED) system, which includes details specific to students from District of Columbia high schools. These data are intended to inform an initial exploration of postsecondary choices, make cost and outcomes information more transparent for students and their families, and highlight the diverse pathways students can take through higher education.

- **Institution**
 - Select any postsecondary institution to learn more about how all attending students, and other students from DC, enroll and succeed there.
 - If you are interested in four-year institutions, or want to earn a Bachelor's degree, select the "4 Year" box before choosing a school.
 - If you are primarily interested in earning an Associate's degree, other credential, or want to attend a two-year school before enrolling at a four-year institution, select "2 Year."
- **Key Facts**
 - After selecting an institution, several key details will populate here, including the geographic location, institution website, study body and freshman enrollments, and total number of students from DC that were enrolled as of 2013.
- **Average Net Price by Income Level**
 - This graphic shows how much a first-time, full-time undergraduate that is awarded financial aid pays to attend an institution after federal and local grants are subtracted from the published cost of attendance. Remember, this total includes required fees, books and supplies, and the weighted average for room and board and other expenses. This total does not, however, take DC-TAG or institutional financial aid and scholarships into account, so the actual cost of attendance may be lower than what is represented in this chart. Each bar corresponds to a different level of family income- estimate your household income for a better idea of how much you should expect to pay to attend the selected institution.
 - "Sticker price" or even the net price of postsecondary programs and colleges can be daunting, so remember that there are many financial aid options available. Do not be afraid to ask questions of the financial aid office at the college or university in which you are interested. Once you have a clear idea of how much your college or university will cost make sure you have a plan to cover costs for the entire program, not just the first year.





District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education

- **Admissions**
 - Use the information in this section to get a general sense of the types of students that attend the institution.
 - First, find out the typical range of ACT and SAT scores for admitted students. Certain institutions may not list these scores, for they are not admissions requirements for every college or university.
 - You can also see the typical range of ACT and SAT scores for DC students who have enrolled at the institution.
 - Then, learn about the demographic makeup of the institution. What percentage of students are males? Females? How many students belong to each racial and/or ethnic category?
 - Finally, learn the percentage of students that applied who were admitted to the institution.
- **Graduation**
 - A primary goal of going to college is obtaining your degree. You are more likely to graduate and get your degree at an institution that has a high rate of overall and DC student graduation. While many DC high school graduates enroll in college, unfortunately not all of them will successfully earn a degree or credential. There are diverse reasons for low graduation rates at many institutions, so making an informed decision about where you attend is incredibly important. Use this box to gain a high-level viewpoint on the likelihood of first-time, full-time enrolled students to graduate within six years of entering an institution.
 - First, see the federally reported graduation rate within six years, followed by the reported graduation rates for various races, ethnicities, and genders.
 - Finally, find out the percentage of students from DC high schools that started at this institution at least six years ago that have earned a degree from this institution.
 - **For all of these graduation data, please note that students who start at your selected institution but transfer are not counted as graduates, even if they earn a degree at their transfer destination. Please reach out to institutional admissions offices to learn more about outcomes for their students.**
- **Pathways**
 - For many students, postsecondary education is not one institution or a single path, but a complex journey to completion and credential. DC students are more likely to transfer between institutions than the national average; use this box to learn more about common transfer options.
 - In this box, you can see how many DC students started at the selected institution in the last decade, and the number who stayed at the institution, transferred to a four-year institution, or transferred to another two-year institution.
 - In addition, the Top Transfer Destinations graphic shows the most common places where students who started at your selected institution transferred after their initial enrollment.

Selecting the right-fit institution for you requires far more information about academic programs, student life, career options, and institution culture; please ask for help from advisors at your school to understand these data, and reach out to institutional admissions offices and websites to learn the details that make their institutions unique.

